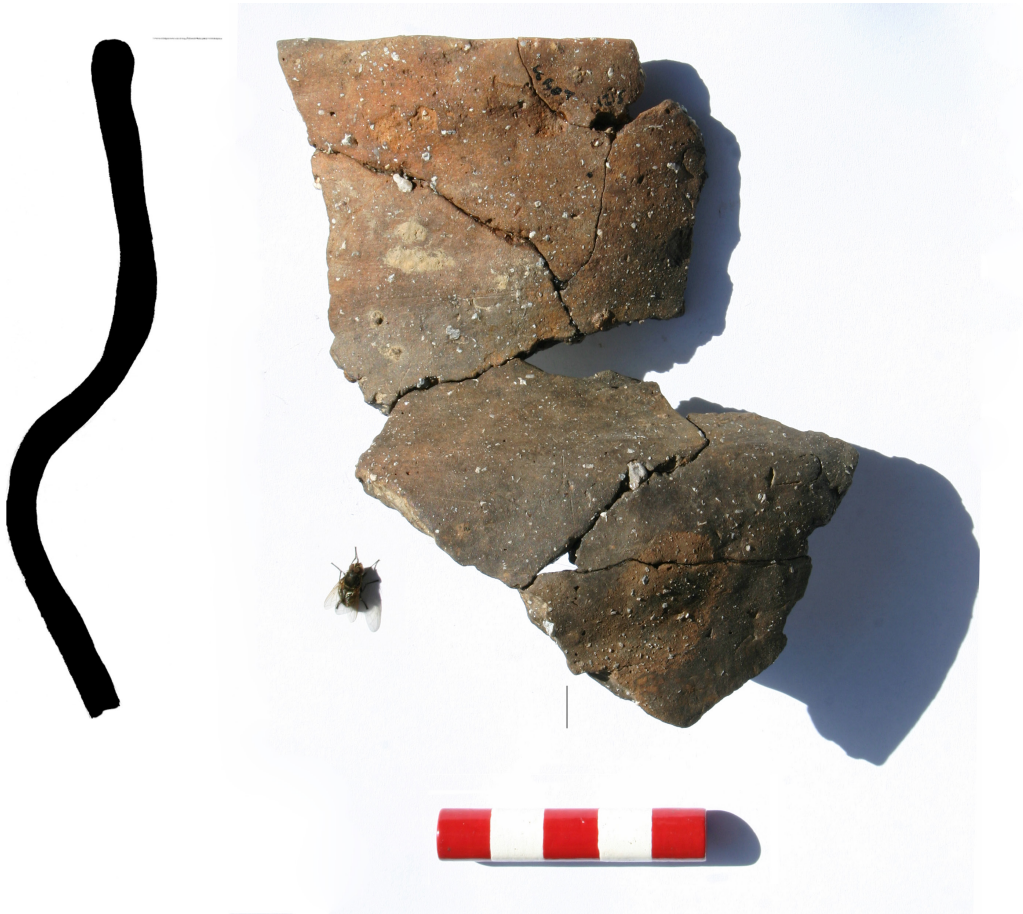


Bognor Regis College

The prehistoric and Roman pottery



by
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Technical report 19

Bognor Regis College — the prehistoric and Roman pottery
by Anna Doherty & Mike Seager Thomas
(text commissioned by Archaeology South-East)

Bognor Reigis College (CCB 07)

The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery — final report

by Anna Doherty & Mike Seager Thomas

In all an assemblage of 339 prehistoric sherds, weighing 2144 grams was recovered from the Bognor College site ([Table 1](#)), along with a small assemblage of less than 50 Roman sherds. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count and weight to the nearest whole gram. Prehistoric fabrics were defined according to a site specific type-series, in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1991). In the absence of a regional type-series for Sussex, Roman fabrics and forms were recorded using the Southwark typology (Marsh & Tyers 1979). The bulk of the prehistoric assemblage is attributable to the Late Bronze Age post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) pottery tradition, although the lack of large groups containing more than a few diagnostic feature sherds, and the definite presence of small quantities both of earlier, Deverel-Rimbury and later, PDR pottery makes precise dating of individual context assemblages difficult. The date of the Roman pottery focuses on the second half of the 1st century AD. For both period groups the small average sherd size possibly indicate some residuality.

The prehistoric assemblage comprises a suite of nine fabrics, ranging from very fine (FF and FFGL) to very coarse (CF). These are broadly divisible into flint-tempered fabrics (FF, FMF, MF, MCF and CF) and sandy (Q) and sandy, sparsely flint-tempered fabrics (FFGL, MFQ and MCFQ).

The coarse flint-tempered fabric, CF, is associated exclusively with DR pottery. The other flint-tempered fabrics closely resemble material from earlier PDR assemblages from the Plain such as those from Knapp Farm, Bosham, and West Beach, Selsey (Hamilton 1997; Seager Thomas 1998). Around a fifth of sherds are coarse (MCF), and show some continuity with Deverel-Rimbury fabrics, but, being mostly thinner-walled or found in association with finer fabrics, can nonetheless be assigned with reasonable confidence to PDR tradition. About half are in medium ware fabrics FMF and MF. The single fine flint-tempered ware (FF) is represented by one sherd only. The sandy and the sandy flint-tempered fabrics, which *collectively* form a minority group, are characteristic of later PDR assemblages locally (e.g. East Beach, Selsey: Seager Thomas 2001).

One rim sherd, a plain squared rim from a thick bodied urn, is definitely of Middle Bronze Age date (no 9) (not illustrated). It occurred alone in context [1255]. A larger assemblage of Middle Bronze Age body sherds were recovered from pit [1157].

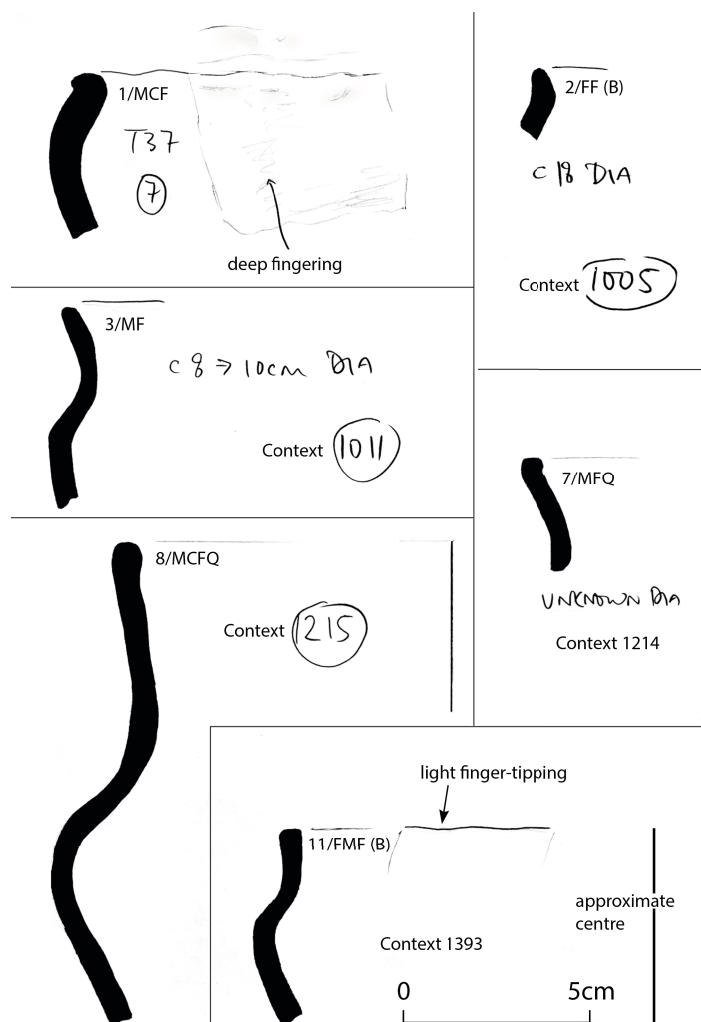
There are rather more diagnostic PDR forms present in the assemblage ([Fig. 1](#)). Most of those identified have shoulders and upright or slightly flared necks with simple rims (e.g. nos 3). A fine ware jar or bowl from context [1392], a coarse, round shouldered jar from context [7], and a coarse ware vessel of unknown form from context [1401], have decoration, in the form

Context	Fabric/ sherd dating															
	MBA															
			LBA													
									EIA							
	CF		FF		FMF		MF		MCF		Q		MFQ		MCFQ	
	Number of sherds/ weight in grams															
5 TR 6															1	14
5 TR 15									12	46						
5 TR 30					2	3										
ditch TR 30							1	3								
5 TR 32							2	6								
7 TR 32							3	35	1	30						
1005					1	2										
1007					2	1										
1011							41	130	8	136						
1021							2	12								
1023							1	4								
1028									24	76						
1030							4	47								
1032							1	37	1	6						
1078					3	1										
1158							2	6	2	10						
1159							2	18								
1160					5	38	10	71	8	183						
1161					8	28	8	32								
1161, 1162 & 1165	2	57	1	2	4	29	16	99	7	52						
1162	33	183							6	60						
1165									11	72						
1169					1	6										
1203							7	5								
1214					3	15					1	10	4	10	3	11
1215															26	162
1253					2	2										
1255	1	15														
1318							1	8								
1350					1	1			1	10						
1385									5	25						
1391					5	87	2	10	14	84						
1393					1	36										
1401					1	1	3	36	1	2						
1407							1	1								
1411					2	14	1	4								
3087									1	1						
3195							6	15								
3208							3	6	1	2						
3217							1	11								
3218							2	9								
Total	1	15	1	2	2	14	12	41	1	2	1	10	4	10	31	173
Plus a single 16 gram unstratified sherd in FFGL from evaluation trench 32																
Red = comprises/ includes <i>typologically</i> diagnostic sherd(s)																

Table 1. Fabric quantification/ dating of the prehistoric pottery from Bognor College (CCB 07)

of finger-tipping along the rim (nos 1, 11 and 12) (12 not illustrated). Most striking are sherds from a burnished jar or bowl with a rounded shoulder and upright to slightly flaring neck (no 11). Also of note are several flint-gritted bases (e.g. no 6) (not illustrated), a technological trait considered to be typical of PDR assemblages in Sussex and elsewhere in southeast Britain (Hamilton 1997, 41).

Figure 1. Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Bognor College



The odd man out typologically is a jar from context [1215] with a low shoulder and very long-flaring rim, which is almost tripartite in profile (no 8). Morphologically the only Sussex parallel for it is from Park Brow (Wolseley & Smith 1924), usually dated to the EIA on account of its early La Tène parallels. It is in sandy fabric MCFQ, which, as noted, also has late analogues.

The small size of most context groups and paucity of closely chronologically diagnostic material in them makes it difficult to decide to which PDR phase(s) each belongs: the plain ware (c.1150–950BC), the developed plain ware (c. 950–800BC) or the decorated (post c. 800BC) phase. Only the jar with the long flaring rim from context [1215], and the sherds associated with this [1214], are likely to be as late as the decorated phase. On the other hand, the presence of the few decorated sherds, and the

absence from the assemblage of any indisputably early PDR forms — such as the convex-sided jar — probably rule out a very early attribution. Indeed, one of the only moderately-sized groups, from the fills of pit [1157], contains a sherd tempered with both flint and shell, which, along with an unstratified glauconitic sherd, is likely *at its earliest* to belong to the PDR tradition's developed plain ware phase (Seager Thomas 2008, 41).

The Roman assemblage amounts to less than 50 sherds. Diagnostic material includes a bead rim jar, a possible globular beaker and two high-shouldered necked jars, one of which is in a sparsely flint-tempered grey ware. There is also one sherd of North Gaulish white-ware and one grog-tempered sherd. Although individual stratified pottery groups are poorly-dated, all of the diagnostic sherds point to activity around AD40–100/120.

(May, 2010)

Catalogue of feature sherds

- 1) Rounded shoulder and fingertip impressed/ cabled rim of neckless, round shouldered jar. Fabric MCF. Deeply fingered. Irregularly fired, roughly smoothed surfaces. Possibly late post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 7 (TR 32)
- 2) Rounded, out-turned/ everted rim of bowl or jar. Fabric FF (sparse). Dark grey burnished surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1005
- 3) Rounded shoulder and upright or — more likely — slightly flared neck of small shouldered jar with roughly squared rim. Fabric MF. Fingered. Irregularly fired, roughly smoothed surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1011
- 4) Upright or slightly flared neck of small shouldered jar with squared, slightly externally expanded rim. Fabric MCF. Fingered. Irregularly fired, roughly smoothed surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1021
(not illustrated)
- 5) Rounded shoulder. Fabric FMF. Dark grey burnished exterior surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1160 (not illustrated)
- 6) Heavily gritted base. Fabric MCF (very similar fabric to pot 2). Irregularly fired surfaces. Possibly late post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1162 (not illustrated)
- 7) Flared neck of shouldered jar with squared rim. Fabric MFQ. Fingered. Irregularly fired, roughly smoothed surfaces. Late post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1214
- 8) Rounded shoulder and long squared neck of 'tripartite' shouldered jar with roughly squared, slightly internally expanded rim. Fabric MCFQ. Irregularly fired, roughly smoothed surfaces. Late post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1215
- 9) Flat, squared rim of thick-bodied bucket urn. Fabric CF. Oxidized, roughly smoothed surfaces. Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1255 (not illustrated)

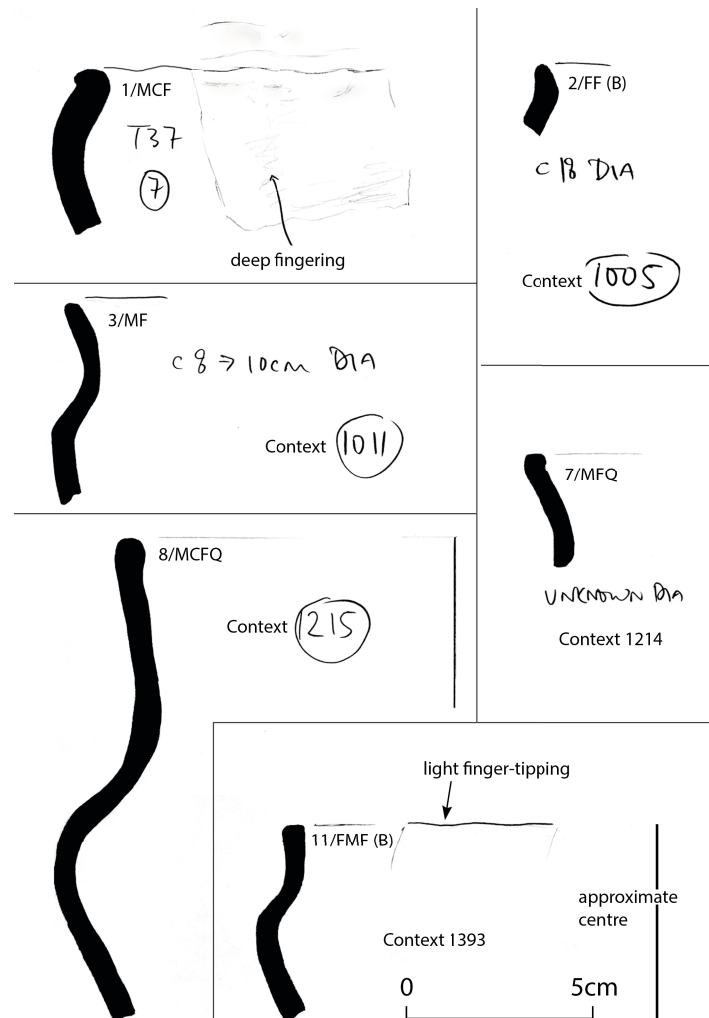
- 10) Rounded, fingertip impressed shoulder. Fabric MF. Roughly smoothed (?) exterior surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1391 (not illustrated)
- 11) Rounded shoulder and upright neck of bowl (?) with squared, lightly fingertip impressed rim. Fabric FMF. Irregularly fired, roughly burnished surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1393
- 12) Fingertip impressed rim. MF. Irregularly fired surfaces. Post Deverel-Rimbury. CONTEXT 1401 (not illustrated)

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